VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1-14 have been canceled.

The following Claims have been added:

15. (New) An objective lens system receiving light beams arriving generally telecentrically from an object, the objective lens system comprising:

a first lens formed as a condensing lens, the first lens having a focal point and a focal length and receiving and guiding the light beams;

an aperture stop having a center and positioned in the vicinity of the focal point of the first lens;

a correcting second lens arranged between the first lens and the aperture stop and juxtaposed with the aperture stop wherein the second lens comprises a condensing lens with a spherical surface S_3 facing the first lens and wherein the spherical surface S_3 defines a curvature center and a curvature radius; and

a correcting third lens formed as a condensing lens and arranged beside the aperture stop opposite the second lens wherein the curvature center of the spherical surface of the second lens is at a distance shorter than 15% of the curvature radius of the spherical surface of the second lens from the center of the aperture stop and wherein the aperture stop is arranged at a distance shorter than 25% of the focal length of the first lens from the focal point of the first lens.

16. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein focal lengths f_1, f_2, and f_3 of the first , second, and third lenses respectively satisfy the relation $f_1 > f_3 > f_2$.

17. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein the aperture stop, the second lens, and the third lens are formed as a separate unit and are not dependent on the size of the object and wherein the first lens is formed as a matching lens wherein the focal length of the first lens depends on the size of the object.

18. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein the first lens is a plano-concave lens, the third lens is a convex-planar lens, and the second lens is of a meniscus shape bending towards the aperture stop.

19. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein the first lens, the second lens, and the third lens are formed with spherical surfaces S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5, and S_6.

20. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein the first lens, the second lens, and the third lens have at least one aspherical surface.

21. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third lenses comprise glass.

22. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein at least one of the first second, and third lenses comprise plastic.

23. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third lenses comprise a plurality of separate lens parts wherein the lens parts are affixed together and wherein the lens parts comprise materials with different indices of refraction.

24. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 15, further comprising an air space interposed between the first and second lenses and a first light reflecting structure diverting the light beams wherein the first light reflecting structure is arranged in the air space.

25. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 24, further comprising a second light reflecting structure having a reflecting surface and a light exiting surface and wherein the object comprises a print of a finger positioned on the second reflecting structure so as to define a print area.

26. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 25, wherein at least one of the first and second light reflecting structures comprises a prism.

27. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 25, wherein the first lens comprises a plano-concave lens and wherein the first lens is affixed to the light exiting surface of the second light reflecting structure.

28. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 25, further comprising an image sensor wherein the print is projected onto the image sensor.

29. (New) The objective lens system of Claim 28, wherein the image sensor comprises a CMOS image sensor.

30. (New) An imaging device including an objective lens system receiving light beams arriving generally telecentrically from an object, the objective lens system comprising:

a first lens formed as a condensing lens, the first lens having a focal point and a focal length and receiving and guiding the light beams;

an aperture stop having a center and positioned in the vicinity of the focal point of the first lens;

a correcting second lens arranged between the first lens and the aperture stop and juxtaposed with the aperture stop wherein the second lens comprises a condensing lens with a spherical surface S_3 facing the first lens and wherein the spherical surface S_3 defines a curvature center and a curvature radius; and

a correcting third lens formed as a condensing lens and arranged beside the aperture stop opposite the second lens wherein the curvature center of the spherical surface of the second lens is at a distance shorter than 15% of the curvature radius of the spherical surface of the second lens from the center of the aperture stop and wherein the aperture stop is arranged at a distance shorter than 25% of the focal length of the first lens from the focal point of the first lens.

31. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein focal lengths f_1, f_2, and f_3 of the first , second, and third lenses respectively satisfy the relation $f_1 > f_3 > f_2$.

32. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein the aperture stop, the second lens, and the third lens are formed as a separate unit and are not dependent on the size of the object and wherein the first lens is formed as a matching lens wherein the focal length of the first lens depends on the size of the object.

33. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein the first lens is a plano-concave lens, the third lens is a convex-planar lens, and the second lens is of a meniscus shape bending towards the aperture stop.

34. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein the first lens, the second lens, and the third lens are formed with spherical surfaces S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5, and S_6.

35. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein the first lens, the second lens, and the third lens have at least one aspherical surface.

36. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third lenses comprise glass.

37. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein at least one of the first second, and third lenses comprise plastic.

38. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third lenses comprise a plurality of separate lens parts wherein the lens parts are affixed together and wherein the lens parts comprise materials with different indices of refraction.

39. (New) The imaging device of Claim 30, further comprising an air space interposed between the first and second lenses and a first light reflecting structure diverting the light beams wherein the first light reflecting structure is arranged in the air space.

40. (New) The imaging device of Claim 39, further comprising a second light reflecting structure having a reflecting surface and a light exiting surface and wherein the object comprises a print of a finger positioned on the second reflecting structure so as to define a print area.

41. (New) The imaging device of Claim 39, wherein at least one of the first and second light reflecting structures comprises a prism.

42. (New) The imaging device of Claim 40, wherein the first lens comprises a plano-concave lens and wherein the first lens is affixed to the light exiting surface of the second light reflecting structure.

43. (New) The imaging device of Claim 40, further comprising an image sensor wherein the print is projected onto the image sensor.

44. (New) The imaging device of Claim 43, wherein the image sensor comprises a CMOS image sensor.